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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

DECEMBER 15, 1923

MONTHLY IN JULY AND AUGUST

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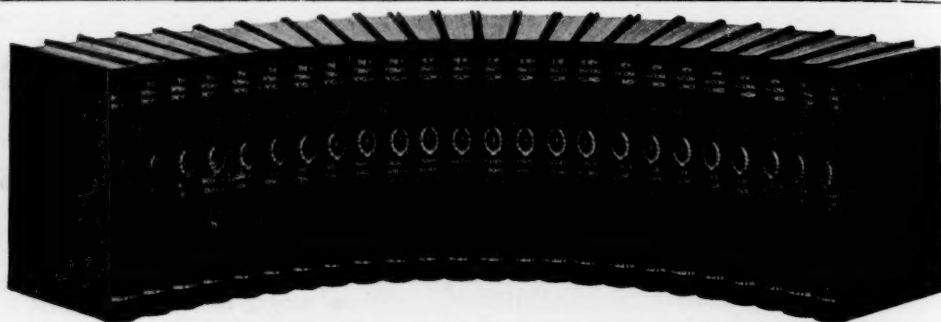
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## Library Book Outlook

—The regular fall publishing season as it neared its end was notable for the publication of Joseph Conrad's *"The Rover"* (Doubleday).

Other outstanding publications in fiction and drama of the past fortnight include Arnold Bennett's *"Riceyman Steps"* (Doran), Maxwell Bodenheim's *"Against This Age"* (Boni), the three-act play *"Rain,"* by John Colton and Clemence Randolph (Boni), founded on the story of the same name in *"The Trembling of a Leaf,"* by W. Somerset Maugham, and *"The Nervous Wreck,"* by E. J. Rath (Watt), the book from which Owen Davis's farce success was made.

Travel is well represented by *"Two Vagabonds in Spain"* (McBride), by Jan and Cora Gordon (probably identical with the recent British work entitled *"Poor Folk in Spain"*); *"The Out Trail,"* by Mary Roberts Rinehart (Doran), leading thru mountains and deserts of this country; *"The Great White South,"* by Herbert G. Ponting (McBride), a member of Scott's expedition of 1910-13; *"Hilltops in Galilee,"* by Harold Speakman (Abingdon), the author of *"Beyond Shanghai,"* another recent successful travel-book; *"New Hampshire Beautiful,"* by Wallace Nutting (Old America), continuing his popular "States Beautiful" series; *"The Assault on Mount Everest, 1922,"* by Brig. Gen. C. G. Bruce and others (Longmans), and *"A White Woman Among the Masai,"* by Marguerite Mallett (Dutton), an English sportswoman's thrilling adventures in East Africa. The latter two are high-priced books (\$7.50 each).

In biography there are Robert McElroy's *"Grover Cleveland,"* the official biography (Harper), in two volumes (\$10 the set); Mrs. J. B. Harriman's *"From Pinafores to Politics"* (Holt), with its intimate glimpses of American society leaders and statesmen; Henry Holt's *"Garrulities of an Octogenarian Editor"* (Houghton), covering sixty years of American publishing; and *"Forty Years in My Bookshop,"* by Walter T. Spencer (Houghton), a prominent English bookseller.

History and public affairs have brought forth Edward E. Whiting's estimate of *"President Coolidge"* (Atlantic), in which the President's challenge to "tell them the truth" is taken up; Poultney Bigelow's *"Japan and Her Colonies"* (Longmans), which is based on a visit made in 1921; E. Alexander Powell's *"The Struggle for Power in Moslem Asia"* (Century), and W. P. Cresson's *"Diplomatic Portraits"* (Houghton), giving sketches of the statesmen who have developed the Monroe Doctrine.

Miscellaneous titles include *"Rejuvenation,"* by George F. Corners (Seltzer), telling, in simple language, how Steinach makes people young; *"Nutrition: the Chemistry of Life,"* by Lafayette B. Mendel (Yale), consisting of college lectures; *"The New Physics,"* by Arthur Haas

(Dutton), being lectures for laymen and others, translated; *"Clothes That Count,"* by Bradda Field (Stokes), a complete manual of dressmaking; *"Fannie Fox's Cook-Book"* (Little); *"Workaday English,"* by Stella S. Center (Century), issued in the Century Vocational Series; Books I and II of a *"Reader and Guide for New Americans"* (Macmillan); *"Our American Theatre,"* by Oliver M. Saylor (Brentano), with very full appendices; *"Art Training for Life and for Industry,"* by Charles Alpheus Bennett (Manual Arts), a five-chapter manual on art appreciation (boards, \$1); *"Birds in Legend, Fable and Folk-Lore,"* by Ernest Ingersoll (Longmans); *"New Stories to Tell to Children,"* by Sara Cone Bryant (Houghton); *"Modern Thinkers and Present Problems,"* by Edgar A. Singer (Holt); providing an approach to modern philosophy; and the humorous take-off on antique-collecting entitled *"The Collector's Whatnot"* (Houghton).

—Boswell's *"Johnson,"* the best biography in the English language even tho it is also the longest, has been abridged, for the benefit of all but devoted Boswellians, into a volume of average length, by Archibald Marshall (Dodd, Mead, \$2). The abridgment is not a mere selection of plums, but presents a complete portrait of the great Doctor as the admiring Boswell saw him. By judicious omission, Mr. Marshall has thrown into relief those parts of the book which make it so eminently readable. The book includes an appendix of biographical notes.

—James Allen's *"As a Man Thinketh"* (Crowell, 35 cents; Regan Publishing Corporation, Chicago, 50 cents), is a little book that has been distributed by millions. It is a penetrating discussion of the effect of thought on one's conduct and ultimate achievement. That it has done untold good is shown by the simple fact that so many million copies have been sold.

—New titles are announced in Macmillan's *"Children's Classics,"* including some suitable also for grown-ups, as Dana's *"Two Years Before the Mast,"* with eighteen colored illustrations, and *"Gulliver's Travels,"* also illustrated.

—The new one-volume edition of the celebrated *"Weird Tales"* of E. T. W. Hoffman (so intimately associated with Offenbach's opera), just published by Scribner's, presents an old favorite in a welcome form.

—Still another edition of Melville's *"Moby Dick"* is issued, in Brentano's *"Sea Stories Series."* There are six other volumes of the best maritime fiction in this series.

—*"Men, Women and God,"* by A. Herbert Gray, mentioned a fortnight ago, is also published by Doran, at \$1.50.

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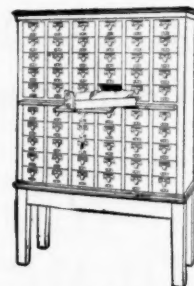
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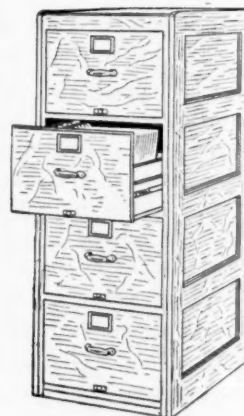
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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

DECEMBER 15, 1923



## Library Architecture\*

By HENRY J. CARLSON

Coolidge and Carlson, Architects, Boston, Mass.

THE important thing is to have a library, and have it as soon as possible so that it may begin its work of moulding character. So do not wait for an ideal building.

In New England villages are many charming old houses left stranded by the dying out of the old families. If these are well located, then an old house can easily be transformed into a charming library with room for everything, room for the various club meetings, room for exhibitions, room for classes in art or good citizenship. If upkeep be too expensive, then shut up all but the heart during the coldest winter months.

In one community is an old house and an adjoining barn, and I have advised that the great open barn be made into a reading room for the summer colony with a shady porch outside overlooking the valley and the hills beyond.

I know another library in an old house where the librarian lives with books in the sitting-room, the dining-room, and I think in the kitchen. Books everywhere. When I am old I look forward to being librarian of such a place. I think that it would make me young again.

Speaking of a central location, this is of such importance that I recently advised a community not to build upon a proffered lot because it was too remote.

In accepting lots for libraries there is another thing to think of, and that is the matter of a dry cellar. We have been given a lot to build upon and then found that after the spring rains it became a lake and that the only safety lay in a drainage system carried one-eighth of a mile away. Generally speaking, there is good land in the proper location and professional advice should be taken before the lot is bought. In Massachusetts the Library Commission has generally been able to give such advice without other expense than that of travelling.

In connection with the matter of drainage

comes the difficult matter of library toilet facilities. There is no doubt that even in the smallest buildings the librarian should have proper facilities, but the problem of toilets for the public is one for which no definite answer can be given because of the varying community conditions. Is the library in a home surrounding where the home becomes the reading room and the library practically a book distributing center? Then toilets may well be dispensed with. On the other hand, where books and magazines are to be used on the premises, there may be real advantages in adequate toilet facilities, but these should be located so as to be under the control of the librarian. Locations to the right and left of the entrance in connection with small coat alcoves, all directly in front of the librarian and subject to his constant supervision, is a wiser method than toilets in the more remote basement. This latter method will do in the larger library where there are basement reading rooms and consequently basement supervision.

More and more the smaller library is treated as a great open room separated by low bookshelves, so that the librarian can keep an eye on every corner. Room divisions almost as indefinite as the chalk line that divided the living quarters of two of Dickens' characters will be better than partitions, doors, or even high book cases.

I was recently asked by a painter why we spent so much money in painting the library, and I told him that I wanted to go back with him twenty years from now and still find the painting in good condition altho it had been neglected in the meanwhile. Good hardwood finish, stained and covered with a waterproof varnish and then rubbed till dull will show less wear than anything else, but paint in ivories or greys, produced with paint of a well-known Dutch make, will undoubtedly give long service and in addition give light and attractiveness that will appeal to many.

In the latter case I plead for the old-fashioned cretonnes at the windows, say with a black

\*Excerpts from a paper read at the Silver Bay meeting of the New York Library Association, September, 1923. The first part of the paper dealt with appreciation of the beautiful in buildings.



ground and with real colors in the pattern. The shelves should never be painted white but stained as nearly as possible the color of an old vellum book. This will wear better than paint and the book wall becomes an unbroken field of color.

Should there be a fireplace? Some say no because it displaces so many books and because of the dust and dirt if lighted and because it generally is *not* used. At the same time, nothing is so cheerful as an open fire, nothing is better bait to draw readers than the crackle of even a small open fire, so I plead for the fireplace but with it I plead for its constant use.

In addition, the space over the fireplace is the logical one for a memorial to the donor. We are just putting in a double portrait in such a place, one of the donor and the other of her husband who made the gift possible and in whose memory the library was given.

As I said before, much will be done for a proper appreciation and no one knows how many future gifts may be influenced by the memorial over the fireplace.

Should the librarian have a work room, even in the smallest library? Generally the answer is yes (for the exceptions are too few to count). The small building librarian finds it necessary to work at odd hours, to drop tasks and take them up again, and this makes for more or less disorder which can best be cared for in a separate room, but the work room door should command as much of the library as possible, surely the desk and the entrance. The work room should be conveniently placed near the unpacking room in the small library. This latter room will probably be in the cellar and a dumb-waiter may connect it with the work room.

When I speak of the work room as a separate room, I see no need of its having a ceiling. It may be separated from the main room only by book stacks so as to increase the airiness and effectiveness of the large room.

The lighting of the reading room is a problem that requires care. In rooms finished white with high ceilings it is an easy matter to conceal the lighting behind the cornices over the book cases, and the light reflected from the ceiling above will give adequate reading light, but in the room finished in dark wood and with a decorated ceiling such indirect lighting would only give general results and must be supplemented by local shaded lights over the reading tables.

The floor of the library is another problem that has not been fully solved, but probably the best is the cork tile which the Metropolitan Museum has used so successfully in its newer galleries. This material is noiseless, soft to the

foot and durable. We have used acres of it in Wellesley College and after ten years of use, only the most exposed locations show any wear. Unfortunately this material is expensive, and the next best material is what is known as battleship linoleum, which has a cork base and is about a quarter of an inch thick whereas the cork tile has almost three-quarters of an inch thickness. Roughly speaking, the cost is about one-third of that of the cork and answers conditions admirably except where chairs are tilted and dig holes. There are numerous other preparations, but I have given you the best.

Personally the idea of quiet in a library seems to me overdone. It is not a church or a mausoleum, and I like it to be a cheerful place. For this reason I see advantage in using the Mercer tiles in color and design that will add to the gayety of the room. I would even like split slate flooring like the aisles of King's Chapel in Boston. These would last forever, and be as beautiful at the end of time as when first laid.

If there is plenty of money the library may well be fireproofed. If it has literary or other treasures it surely should be, but if there is little building money then the furthest I should go would be to put in a fireproof floor between the basement and the first story. This reduces the internal fire danger materially. If the treasures are kept in a small fireproof stack then you have done enough.

To my mind the stack is a regrettable necessity of the growth of a library, and I wish it were possible to have all books on open shelves and accessible. This of course soon becomes impossible and the stack has been so carefully worked out by it various makers that there is little for me to say.

In Massachusetts the State Laws require two exits from a library and an approval of these exits and of a ventilating system that will give pure air to the readers. The exterior of your library will not be cared for, it will be neglected or at least it should be built with that idea.

The roof should be of slate ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) or some well-known baked clay tile, laid with flashings of heavy copper and lead on roofer's paper that in itself will keep out water. Such a roof can be neglected and care need only be taken that pigeons do not make the copper their resting place or that the sulphurous soft coal cinders do not accumulate on the copper surfaces. In either case the copper may be eaten thru by the acid left on them. The remedy is to have a steep roof without flat lodging places. If there are even then places where pigeons congregate, a frequent painting with tanglefoot will discourage even the most persistent bird.

The walls should be fireproof. Brick or stone laid in Portland cement with little or no lime.

Cement grows harder with the years while lime deteriorates, so our practice has been to use no lime whatever but to produce color results with white cement. Cement blocks or cement plaster walls are an abomination, never looking well and looking worse with every year that passes, so stick to brick or stone walls with slate or tile roofs (use no artificial materials) and you have an exterior unaffected by fire and that will require the minimum of upkeep.

Many a library elaborately and expensively built in the first place has found that its funds were being used for repairs and maintenance that with proper planning and superintendence could have been saved for book purchases and librarians' salaries, so beware of the architectural library. Each protruding ornament means just one more expense of upkeep.

Simplicity is better than elaboration. At the same time the library is a quasi-public building

and should have a quiet dignity that will stamp it as the home of refinement and culture. It should be inviting, not austere, and wherever possible, above the book line its walls should be covered with paintings or decorations or sculpture that will make it more attractive.

If its vestibule can be enlarged so as to contain real art exhibits, then you will be doing what in a modified form is done in the Converse library in Malden, the Concord library, and what is now being proposed for Westfield—a museum vestibule that will have its art influence on every reader that enters the library.

Now one word in regard to costs. Disregard all cost charts that antedate the war. Buildings that then cost \$10,000 will now probably cost \$30,000, so get actual cost from buildings built since the war.

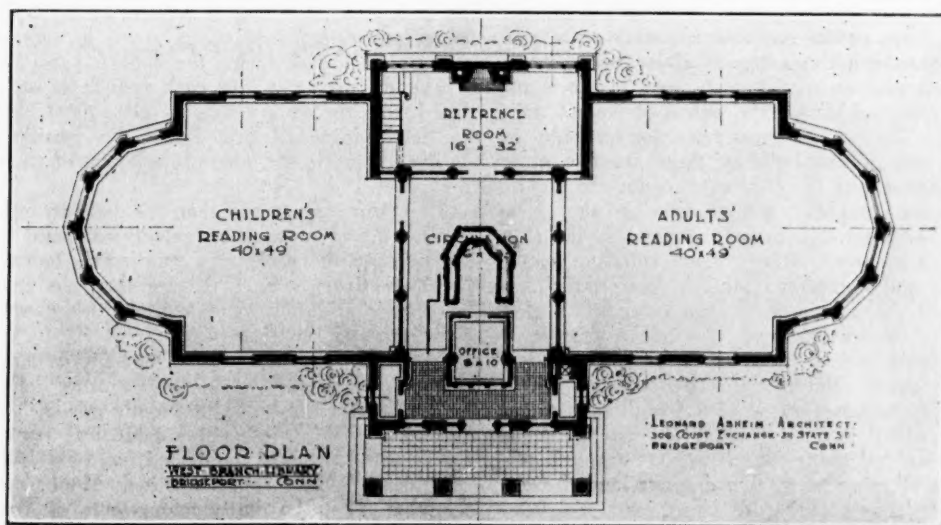
Of course you realize that upkeep and maintenance are correspondingly advanced so that in talking to possible donors you may ask them for enough to build well and afterward to maintain in a proper condition.

## Bridgeport's Branch Libraries

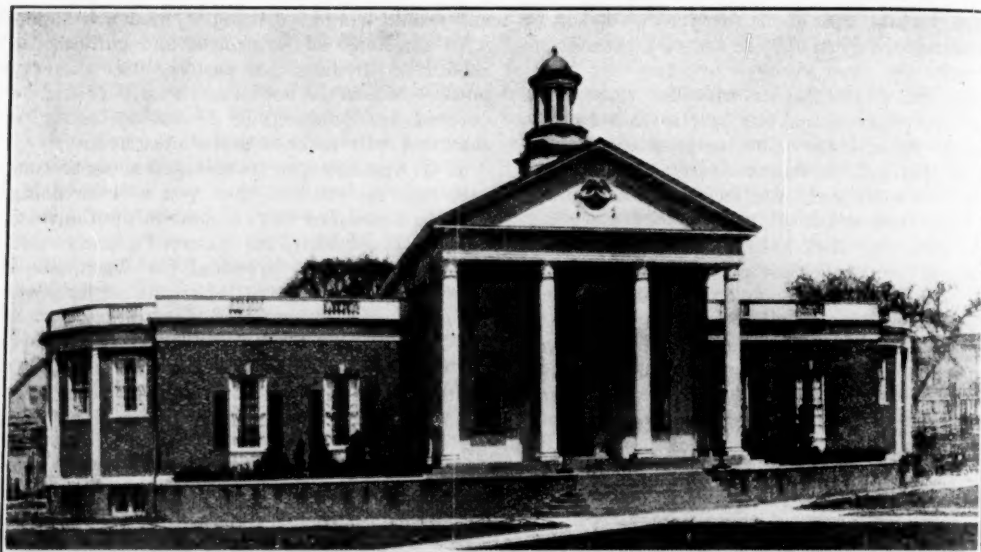
**D**URING the last five years, five permanent branch buildings have been built in Bridgeport. The first two, being built with funds donated by the Carnegie Corporation, were constructed on the conventional plan approved by the Corporation. One of these, which from the opening proved too small, has this year been enlarged, and the arrangement of the rooms made to conform more closely with the three later buildings constructed.

The latest building to be completed (March 1923) is somewhat larger than the others, and, due to the prominence of its location in a small public park on the main artery of traffic from New York to Boston, is more elaborate than required for actual use. It will, however, serve as an illustration of the arrangement of the other branches for its floor plan is typical.

The chief divergence from the common plan



FLOOR PLAN OF THE WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.



EXTERIOR OF THE BRIDGEPORT'S WEST BRANCH LIBRARY

of branch buildings is in the location of the charging desk and the librarian's office. The librarian, who is responsible for this arrangement does not claim originality. The idea of passing the charging desk on entering, instead of approaching the desk situated facing the door, has been adopted in other library buildings. The location of the office and the dividing of adults and children by separate entrances on either side of the desk is perhaps more original. At least, a similar arrangement elsewhere is unknown.

A study of the accompanying floor plan will make clear what are considered advantages.

1. The office inclosed in glass with windows toward the entrance gives the librarian at her desk an unobstructed view of the whole building and immediate control of the entrance.

2. The two entrances from the vestibule (in the case of one building there are two outer entrances, with the office overlooking the porch) separate completely the children and the adults as they enter. A brass rail dividing the children's entrance brings those entering to the right and immediately to the desk, where they return their books before proceeding farther. On leaving they have books charged at the inner end of the side of the charging desk (the angle) and pass out at the right of the rail. The same is true of the adult side, except that a rail is not necessary for dividing those coming and going. Each side of the desk contains slipping trays, fine drawers, and drawers for holding book cards.

In case a person wishes to register, he passes

to the front end of the circulation desk between and out of the way of the two lines of entrance. Beneath this part of the counter are the registration files.

The result of this arrangement is an avoidance of confusion. In periods of rush, children's books are charged at the attendant's desk in the children's room.

3. By placing the office at the front of the building, the space in the rear is usable as a reference room. If in the future the present book capacity should be exhausted, this space can be filled with floor cases for fiction and will be in front of the desk, where it can be much better supervised than if, as usual, it were in the rear of a desk facing the door.

The delivery room in each branch is separated from the other rooms by glass partitions: in the building illustrated here by partitions to the ceiling, in the others to a height of about eight feet.

It is only fair to say that the desk arrangement requires more attendants than would be possible on the staff of a very small branch. In busy times it will require three or four persons in addition, of course, to those needed for floor and room attendance.

HENRY N. SANBORN, *Librarian.*

Sir William Osler's *Incunabula Medica*—A Study of the Earliest Printed Medical Books, 1467-1480—has been published by the Bibliographical Society as Illustrated Monograph Number 19. An introductory note is contributed by Alfred W. Pollard.

# Branch Libraries in Temporary Quarters

By LOUIS J. BAILEY

Librarian of the Public Library of Flint, Mich.

**S**EVERAL factors make a consideration of temporary branches desirable at this time.

We are beset on all sides for reduction in taxation; construction of public buildings is frowned upon officially and increased costs of building materials and labor make difficult the securing of favorable votes for bonds. At the same time we understand that the present directors of the Carnegie Corporation look with disfavor upon devoting their funds in any extensive way to library buildings. Parenthetically one would be reassured if we were informed that Mr. Carnegie himself foresaw such discontinuance of aid to an activity so long encouraged by him. We are also as an Association\* advocating one dollar per capita for a minimum appropriation to secure adequate and complete library service in a community.

In meeting the demand for increased service we cannot always provide a complete and permanent library building, nor, indeed, is it always desirable to do that. Permanent provisions should be made only for those portions of a city where stable conditions have been reached. The general conditions due to constant growth, the scattering of population, the development of outlying districts, the division of the city by natural and artificial features and the creation in separated localities of more or less distinctive neighborhoods—such conditions may warrant the establishment of the small library in tem-

porary quarters. The result should be the reaching of a greater percentage of our population, giving more convenient service to smaller groups and attaining a nearer approach to complete and adequate service.

Rented quarters, certainly, have been used a great many years, but whereas formerly the tendency was to use upstairs rooms more recent ideas of service lean entirely to a ground floor location. It gains a great deal in accessibility from its street level entrance and its openness to view decreases the sense of formality fostered by a more pretentious structure. Possibilities of attraction exist in the use of windows for special display, the conduct of the library is visible from the outside so that the timid or hesitant are almost a part of the library before they enter and the books themselves exert an influence that cannot but be gracious and appealing.

The usual way of obtaining ground floor locations is to rent store space and then make the best adaptation possible. Fairly successful results are generally obtained in this way. This plan is especially desirable if the location of the branch is for trial only. The equipment of the library is so different from the ordinary store, however, that it is better to lease for a term rather than year by year. In that event one is justified in spending more to gain better operation and oversight and to furnish and equip the library in a more attractive manner. The owner also should be willing to spend more in repairs and decoration for a public institution. Rental under such conditions will be easier and cheaper than to build with the idea of ultimate

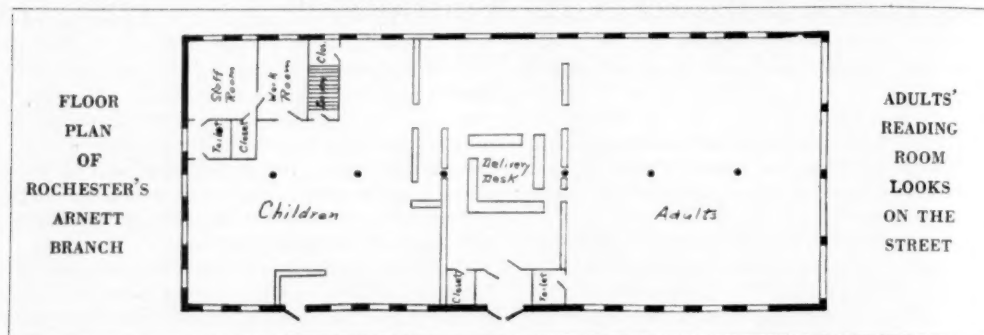
\*This article is based on a talk given at the Hot Springs meeting of the A. L. A. Round Table on Library Buildings.

THE  
LINCOLN  
BRANCH  
OF  
THE  
ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



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sale. Another method that has been used to advantage in several cities is that of leasing for a term of years a building to be erected to meet the special requirements of the library, and which may later be converted to mercantile purposes. In this way better natural light, size and arrangement of space and entrances may be obtained. Mr. Yust's recent article in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*\*\* gives a good account of his experience in Rochester with this last plan.

Whatever the system of obtaining the space there are a few considerations that will be worth attention.

The equipment is exceedingly important. The library must make up in attractiveness in the interior what it lacks on the exterior. To this end good linoleum floor covering is advisable; furniture should be well designed, made and finished (chairs and book cases especially); some children's book cases should be kept low so as to give bulletin space above, thus permitting bright pictures; proper wall and ceiling painting is as important as in larger buildings; good lighting fixtures well distributed are essential. In general the equipment and furnishing

should be as good for a temporary branch as for a permanent one and such as might be used later in a better building.

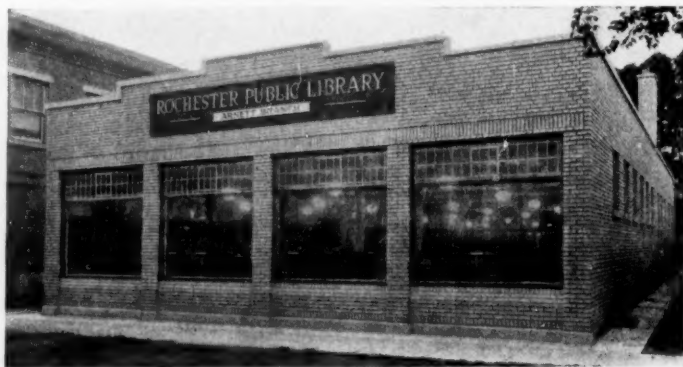
Heating often gives trouble because a library ordinarily requires more heat for quiet readers than the store does for its active customers. The heating plant should be large enough to solve this problem. One library which had tried two stoves and different kinds of fuel was made comfortable only by the installation of a jacketed furnace such as was used in camp libraries. This was placed out of sight behind a floor case and was entirely efficient.

The use of the windows for display purposes is very valuable and many interesting results can be obtained. These require, however, real thought, good ideas and adequate preparation for the best return. Care should be taken in placing books in the windows to make sure that the windows are tight so as not to allow water to spoil book covers. Plants make a good background for the window but should not be thick or high enough to prevent a good view of the room by the passerby.

The shape of the room is often a factor for or against success. The long narrow room is hard to supervise and to provide with reading tables.

\*\* L. J. for April 1, 1923, p. 317-318.

EXTERIOR  
OF  
THE  
ARNETT  
BRANCH  
AT  
ROCHESTER



PUBLIC  
HAS  
GOOD  
VIEW  
OF THE  
ADULT  
DEPARTMENT



Oftentimes two or more rooms may be thrown together so as to provide greater space suitably divided as for children, reading, reference and circulation.

There is a tendency also for the temporary room to become a circulating medium only, due possibly to its store character but usually more to its inadequate provision of reading space. That would seem more natural, however, if we consider that the branch is nearer the homes of its patrons and consequently somewhat less needed as a reading room. The reference material in the branch must be limited and work requiring extended assistance be referred to a central collection. Other phases of work usually accommodated in larger buildings, like meetings, club work and story hours must be omitted because of lack of space. Consequently it should be thoroly understood when opening temporary branches that they are at best a substitute and should be replaced at the first opportunity by permanent and completely adequate structures, providing of course, that the neighborhood location is a proper one for the purpose.

There remains to mention a type of temporary structure of recent development, namely the portable type built in sections and capable of being quickly disassembled and transported elsewhere or stored for future use. It has not been used very much for libraries; but mostly for schools and cottages. Where it has been used it has been fairly satisfactory and not over expensive, first cost equaling the rental of about three to five years. It may be arranged in almost any shape desired with or without partitions. For appearance and heating these buildings should be ceiled and lined with wall board. Firms making them are well distributed thruout the country and almost any firm dealing in section built houses could supply a similarly built library. They are most useful where the library owns a site and is not ready to build a permanent building.

### A. L. A. Temporary Training Board

THE Temporary Library Training Board, whose last meeting was held at Cleveland, October 24th, 1923, will meet again in Chicago New Year's week. The first session will be held in advance of the Mid-Winter Library Meetings. The subjects for consideration are:

1. The curriculum—defining and standardizing prerequisites for and content of library school courses; and
2. Classification—a comparative study of training opportunities now offered by the various library schools.

Adam Strohm, chairman, will present the report of the Temporary Library Training Board at the first session of the A. L. A. Council on Tuesday afternoon, January 1, following discussion of the Williamson report. The Board is eager to learn the views of the library profession generally as to the problems it has under consideration. Discussion will be invited.

Following the Mid-Winter meetings the Board will hold two sessions, January 3rd and 4th.

A week's meeting is contemplated for some time in March or April to take place in New York, when a further opportunity will be given library schools to make suggestions and offer advice.

Drexel Institute Library School has given a month's leave of absence to Miss Florence R. Curtis, vice director, to assist in the work of the Temporary Library Training Board preceding the appointment of their executive officer.

The functions of the Temporary Library Training Board are: To investigate the field of library training, to formulate tentative standards for all library training agencies, and to devise and plan for accrediting such agencies.

The personnel of the Board: Adam Strohm, chairman; Sarah C. N. Bogle, secretary; Harrison W. Craver; Linda A. Eastman; Andrew Keogh; Malcolm G. Wyer.

SARAH C. N. BOGLE, *Secretary*.

A grant of \$10,000 for the Temporary Library Training Board and a grant of \$5,000 for the preparation of a textbook have been made by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the American Library Association.

The Kansas City Public Library is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary on December 5. The newspapers, church and club bulletins gave the "Know your Public Library" campaign a lot of publicity. The William Allen White poster was helpful, as was a radio talk broadcast by the Star. The poster was lettered by a library assistant, photostated, and mounted on colored mats, which proved effective. The quotation is from an article in *School and Society* of November 10.

The *Papers* of the Bibliographical Society of America, vol. 16, part 2, 1922, containing the papers contributed to the New Haven meeting of last December, have recently appeared (*LIBRARY JOURNAL* for January 15, p. 191).

The title-page, index, and table of contents of the forty-eighth volume of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* will be mailed with the number for January 1, 1924.

# Sites for City Library Buildings

A RESUME OF SITE PROBLEMS IN CITIES OF 200,000 TO 400,000 POPULATION, BY ELECTRA C. DOREN, LIBRARIAN OF THE DAYTON (OHIO) PUBLIC LIBRARY

THIS paper is little more than a preamble and some statistics and the real meat will be found chiefly in the statistics. The work of Mr. Brett, and the studies on location of library buildings by Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Yust, Mr. Ranck, Mr. Dana and others, leave little more to be said in behalf of central location for the site of the main public library. Still, perhaps by sorting our experiences and by reviewing the general situation we may clear the ground for dealing with the powers that be—the unconvinced among library trustees, boards of education, city councils, as well as the city planning commissions.

Despite the definiteness in the statement of my subject, it is nevertheless an elusive one. For building site, once the location has been settled, has a most intimate relation to building plans and building codes, and very direct dependence upon main traffic lines, upon conditions for light and air, and upon possible area for future enlargement.

The building code, as we have been made painfully and expensively aware, is an early symptom of the city planning fever and if the disease is as acute as the symptom, we are in for considerable readjustment in our ideas about the planning of our next library buildings. Under the new system we shall no more be allowed to practice the subtle economy of a large library building with but one or two public entrances and exits. There will be an excess of exits and entrances and of public lavatories in our main corridors; there will be unexpected stairways where no stairways are wanted; hatchways and light wells where we would be satisfied with forced ventilation and artificial light, etc. Of course, this is "all for our good." But it will cost. We must enlarge the area of our building sites, unless we would distort administrative efficiency and increase administrative costs by placing allied departments on different floors. For our buildings must expand either laterally or vertically.

When we turn for precedent to existing library or civic structures there are found variants sufficient to put out of countenance the hardest guesser as to their purpose or their fitness for anything whatever. An extreme example in point is that of a library of my acquaintance which was mistaken more than once for a home for the aged, for a county jail, for a hotel, for an orphan home, for a courthouse, but most frequently of all for a masonic temple!

In library building, the problems of cities of two to four hundred thousand population are distinct from those of the great cities of millions and from those of the cities of 100,000 and under. Indianapolis and Seattle, both well on the way to 400,000, are already well settled. Other things being equal, libraries in cities in the intermediate class, which is the subject of our inquiry, are in a way to be both more obviously and more actively growing. One thing is certain, they have experience and knowledge of certain needs, and they are responsible, therefore, for preserving to the still larger city to come, the inestimable advantage of a proper building site.

The really large cities have built their libraries with stately approach from without and stately corridors within, and they have their great specialized departments for the main divisions of knowledge, History, Literature, Fine Arts, Sociology and economics; Science, Technology, etc. This more divided form for housing books has succeeded the galleries of books with fixed location, surrounding the dome of the one great reading room of an earlier day, such as the Peabody Institute of Baltimore or the old Boston Public Library.

For the city of the 100,000 population and the lesser cities in this class, there is the neatly devised Carnegie building with central supervision, outspread reading and reference rooms in butterfly wings and bookstack body in the rear of the Circulation desk, all beautifully placed in a park or public square with light on four sides.

The library in the city of the intermediate class of 200,000 population is a more or less successful combination of one or the other of these types but not so distinctly a type in itself as either of them. And some of us are blessed with a pseudo-romanesque structure in rubble stone, with walls two and a half feet thick, to enclose a Roman cross arrangement of pigmy reading-rooms and a far away book stack where mere cubby holes of workrooms and offices are tucked out of the way under the stairs or darkly hidden among the books.

We need not smile. These buildings represent the highest reach of the library imagination of the generation that built them and we ourselves are coming to the testing point where if we can, we are to appraise present needs and forecast the future. The question is whether

we can do this; and, further, whether we shall be sufficiently hardy to claim and to contend for the space and site essential to most effective service of an institution rapidly extending its traditional functions and creating new ones. Only as such conditions are adequately met is the public library to be counted alive and worth its keep. If location and site are unwisely chosen the utmost that a convenient and handsome building, good books and skilled personnel can do, will be disastrously neutralized.

We cannot praise too highly the patience and wisdom of the librarians of Los Angeles and Cleveland, who for years, have been creating new library functions and marking out new paths in library adventure, all in rented quarters in the retail districts—far from the maddening silences of the parked library!

In size, our cities are small nations. The proposal that New York and Chicago should be erected into statehood is at least a suggestive commentary upon the present aggregations which, we are told, are each to be brought into unity and order thru City planning commissions. The back-to-the-land movement is all right, if you can get back to the city next morning! And this suburbanizing has a lot more to do with the main library building location and site than might at first appear. The main library is frequently much more accessible to the suburbanite than is his own branch library because of transportation facilities to the focal center. It is safe to say that for business, social and educational purposes the municipality of 150,000, drawing upon its immediate suburban contingent easily totals a population of 200,000. Along with the urge toward these aggregations or congregations there is the manifest will, and necessity for preserving and creating higher standards in human interests and relationships as well as in the practical utilities. The public library should be recognized as a signal expression of the idealistic spirit and one of its chief agencies, and should be placed at the center where the greatest day population passes.

The location for the main library building site in respect to the problem of shifting center of business and traffic lines, becomes for each city a case for individual study. The one-street city eventually overflows into side streets, for example, Providence, R. I., Youngstown, Ohio; while villages or suburbs combining under one charter, as Jersey City, may have several centers, or, a large city with special centers already developed, as in Detroit or Washington, may have connected the centers by a boulevard system or by convenient traffic lines. A survey will reveal types to which we may refer our own cases and their methods of treatment will be suggestive.

The commoner site shapes are: the square, the rectangle, and the flatiron. The location may be central, the very heart of central, but the placing of the site or the placement of the building on the site may neutralize this advantage. Where, within the area of any given location, shall the site be? In the middle of the block? On the corner? or in a park or public square? If on a corner, which of four or a dozen intersections of the main street? If in a block, face a public square or head a street: secure all the advantages of outlook—of seeing and being seen—thus becoming the beautiful end of a fine vista. If the public square or the center of the block with alleys at side and rear should fail, there is no good reason for declining a corner site in size, say, the quarter of a city block. Thus there would be two hundred feet outlook on each of two streets and 400 feet of sidewalk, for show window in-look. In this position, enlargement must naturally take the course of super-imposed stories.

The importance of a sufficiently large site for the necessarily large building may be emphasized from the points of view of: securing ground while realty values are relatively reasonable; ensuring the platform necessary as an approach; and avoiding the "too much up and down" and separation of allied work, increasing administration costs and time for the public to wait.

Mr. Wheelock of St. Paul, says: "In spite of the fact that we have occupied this building for only six or seven years, our space is wholly outgrown. . . . We are in pressing need already of a very large extension. . . . In general, I think it would be more economical to allow a fifty per cent margin beyond the immediate theoretical requirements."

Mr. Ranck reports that when the addition to the Grand Rapids main building is completed that city will have an area of about one hundred thousand square feet. This is in addition to a new regional library of an area equal to their present main building.

To date, parks or public squares have been popular library sites and, provided location is fairly central, the future will have reason to bless this choice; provided also, that further allotment of space for enlarging the library may be permitted, for people are beginning to object to having buildings of 40,000 square feet or more dropped on the public lawn.

Most city plans that we have had the opportunity to examine provide a liberal building site for the library in the civic center, and the civic center is so far from the retail district and in point of time, so remote from realization for many of us that we must consider care-

fully the advantages thus offered. Provision must be made against suspended animation while awaiting developments or, in case of speedy realization, for the cost of library publicity, etc., until circulation is re-established, for people will not walk for books. They prefer to pay five times the cost for trash at the circulating library; and as for knowledge, they too easily content themselves without it.

School buildings may go to the outskirts and within a year or two they will create their own communities. The courts, county and municipal offices may crown the civic center on the border of the business districts. Perforce, their clientèle must find them, for laws and ordinances are compelling. Not so the public library. Personal preference and convenience and not compulsion, direct or indirect, will bring the citizens to the library.

The extent and position of the building site is limited not alone by realty values or by the generosity of private donors or tax payers, but is not a little dependent upon the attitude of the local library administration itself, which should stand out for what the library should have at whatever cost of effort or funds. Library boards must frankly face the fact that if the building site is not in a retail district, an adequate branch of the library must be placed there in rented quarters, and it is quite possible that the cost of such a branch over a short period of years would amount to the difference in the purchase price of the more central location for the main library.

Nor can consideration of building site be divorced from the question of library functions and their adequate housing. The present form of library organization and classification of functions, is presumably the best for cutting down overhead by centralizing the clerical, technical and administrative work. Branch libraries and extension agencies could not exist without the work done for them by the main library organization. Hence with the expansion of the library system, a correspondingly larger main library is required. This is so fundamental that comparisons of the main library with even the largest branch libraries, based upon growth in circulation and reference alone would be entirely misleading as to the real space needs.

Upon building site conditions as to light and air must depend much of the interior arrangement, upon which depends in turn permanently the prompt, efficient dispatch of work, the health and cheerfulness of the staff and the comfort, convenience, and edification of the library's patrons. If light and air cannot be had from the outside, light wells and interior courts must be provided, and these involve loss of area for

the actual building, increase in expense for construction, and separation of maintenance departments, thereby wasting time and energy of the workers, and above all confusing patrons in finding their way. Then why not put this inevitable cost into a site adequate for the detached building?

The influence of population congestion upon realty values is well known. According to the 1920 census, out of about five hundred and eighteen of the larger cities **there are only twenty-two** with a population of two to four hundred thousand. Dayton, however, is not among them, nor are Grand Rapids and Des Moines, and much other good library company. While the last census gives Dayton only 152,599 population, our Chamber of Commerce rates it as easily being 210,000 and predicts 300,000 within ten years, figures which I find engineers, architects and financial experts are ready to confirm. For Dayton, therefore and for most of the thirty-two cities between 100,000 and 200,000 population, library building within the next ten years, should be on the 200,000 to 400,000 population scale, unless good cause to the contrary can be shown. At least, steps should be taken to reserve adequate building sites in central locations. Cities after reaching the 150,000 or 160,000 mark tend to grow very rapidly. In support of this, witness the growth of Memphis, Tennessee, which was incorporated in 1826 with a population of 500. In the first fifty years, the city increased to 40,000; in the succeeding forty years it quadrupled and is now well over 160,000. Compare this also with the growth of Rochester in the last period from 160,000 to 295,000; or with Indianapolis which in the same time almost doubled itself (160,000 to 314,000); or with Kansas City, 160,000 to 324,000, more than doubling itself. But Akron, Ohio, trebled itself in ten years. Industrial development is the cause: and industrial development may be counted upon to continue.

A glance at the census reports for some sixty-five cities with population above 100,000 shows that only a few have not increased from ten to sixty-six per cent in the decade 1910-1920. This being so, libraries in cities of 200,000 population have an important work to do for the future. They may indeed defer their building needs and sacrifice present glory by devising \*homely expedients for present work in order to secure the right location and site for the greater library of the future.

\* The Dayton Public Library in overcrowded quarters finds outlet thru a book wagon making twenty-seven stops of one or more hours. For shelter in winter months it is hoped that the election booths of corrugated iron will be available.



# Children's Book Week in the Libraries



CALVESTON'S MAGIC  
DOOR TO CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS. SEE NEXT  
PAGE

**E**XAMINATION of the summary below of library activities during Children's Book Week, November 11-17, will show that every successive year brings out new ways of bringing the significance of the Week to the community, and that many more libraries are leaving the beaten paths of perfunctory exhibits and distribution of lists. Enlisting the co-operation of such local groups as women's clubs, press clubs, drama leagues, better motion picture committees and boy and girl scouts evidently made the success

of the library's activities certain from the beginning in cases in which such aid was asked.

**Bangor, Maine.** In addition to the book exhibits, which included an exhibit from the local store and a case filled with material illustrating the evolution of the child's book, talks were given to boys by the head of the local Boy Scout organization and to children and adults on some recent books compared with books popular with children a generation ago, by the dean of the high school. The daily papers carried paid advertisements before and during the week. Announcements were made from the pulpits of the churches on the first day of the Week. The circulation for the week was twice the normal.

**Birmingham, Ala.** The library had several exhibits in town, also a special table in one book store and a complete stock at the other book store, which took from its shelves all books not approved by the children's department of the library. The head of the department acted as a judge in a school contest for the best essays on books based on literature shown at the local moving picture houses.

**Boston, Mass.** Book exhibits were held and book talks given at different parts of the system. At the Central Library the Christmas book display was enriched by original illustrations of some of the new books. Library Day was celebrated at one of the schools.

**Brooklyn, N. Y.** The Flatbush and Prospect branches had especially noteworthy exhibits. A children's librarian was loaned to the book department of Abraham and Straus' store, where

a window display was made up entirely of books recommended by the library.

**Chicago, Ill.** An elaborate exhibit of children's books and picture bulletins was placed in the corridor adjoining the children's room of the central library, with an attendant in charge. Titles suitable for Christmas gifts were shown. Effective displays which attracted much attention and comment were made in the windows on the Michigan Avenue front. All branches had similar exhibits, and many of them organized meetings and group conferences.

**Cleveland, Ohio.** The booksellers, the art museum, and the library school worked with the library in celebrating the Week. Besides talks by Hugh Lofting, lectures and book talks were made by members of the library staff. "Hansel and Grethel" and "The Last of the Mohicans" were shown at two local moving picture houses. A play, "Friends in Bookland" was put on by pupils in two of the junior high schools on three mornings during the Week. In one school fifty standard books and \$83 in money were collected for the school library. The value of books and the library was made the subject of public speaking classes in the senior high schools.

**Dayton, Ohio.** To the usual book talks were added a program of five story hours in different parts of the city and five special days for as many different groups at the main library. The story hour attendance for the week was 1089. The press carried articles and notes every day, and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts helped to distribute 5,000 book lists printed by the library on its own multi-color press.

**Denver, Col.** As a forerunner to the Week a playlet, "Bookland," was presented November 6th in the art room. It was a project suggested by the teacher and worked out by the children. A huge book was the main set, and as the leaves opened characters appeared. The exhibits during the Week were arranged in booths labelled "Books for Little People," "Picture Books," "Fairy Tales," "Books for Girls," "Books for Boys." Ten branches had exhibits. Letters were sent to the schools and classes from all the grades came to see the books and have cards made out. One moving picture manager gave ten books to the children which had been selected by the children's librarian. Book lists with announcements of the book exhibit were placed at each plate for the Lion's Club luncheon and the Rotary Club dinner.

**Des Moines, Iowa.** Story hours were the chief observance. A special article by Children's



Librarian Linn Jones appeared on the book page of the Sunday edition of a local newspaper.

*Detroit, Mich.* In addition to the usual exhibits, talks, and story hours, a story hour for mothers was held at the main library at which sources for stories were explained and books about story were recommended. A story hour for the children who came with their mothers was held at the same time.

*Galveston, Texas.* A Shakespeare afternoon was held under the direction of Evelyn R. Sickels, children's librarian, to demonstrate how children may be introduced to the poet thru beautiful texts, rare prints and music. Over a hundred prints from the Shakespeare Rare Print collection edited by Seymour Eaton were shown, and records of Shakespearean songs were played on the victrola. In the first days of the Week the children were ecstatic over ten bookmarks, each a different color, representing a row of little magic doors each leading to a library of twelve books. A tiny rabbit was punched after each title as soon as a child had finished the book. The subjects were:

Peep-in-the-World's library of picture books; Mother Goose's library of books for young readers; Peter Pan's library of fairy tales; Sinbad the Sailor's library of travel books; Golden Deeds library of historical tales; Sharp Eyes library of nature stories; The Little Women's library of stories for girls; The Little Men's library of stories for boys; The Pied Piper's library of song and verse; and The Wonder Workers' library of biography.

*Grand Rapids, Mich.* The *Bulletin* containing the graded list of children's books for Christmas gifts was printed in time for the Week. Talks were made and exhibits held. Children's Week is regarded as a fifty-two-weeks-in-the-year performance at this library.

*Haverhill, Mass.* Eighteen publishers sent in selected collections of their best children's books, which added to the library's own collection made an exhibit of about five hundred of the better children's books. Mary E. Root, of Providence, lectured one evening. Seventeen posters were entered by high school pupils, to whom prizes were offered. The posters were first exhibited at the central library and then scattered around town to advertise the exhibit.

*Houston, Texas.* Each of the library's three centers celebrated the Week. At the central children's room an exhibit of "Good Books for \$1.00 and Less" attracted attention. A reproduction of the Thomas Bailey Aldrich book case was filled with books for boys. The children's librarian furnished the newspapers annotated

lists each day. North Side Branch had a book party. Representative illustrations from thirty-five books were posted about the room and the children were asked to write the names of the books. The prize winner guessed the titles of twenty-six. At Houston Heights Branch an essay contest was held. All prizes awarded were the gift of Teolin, Pillot and Co., local book-sellers.

*Indianapolis, Ind.* The November issue of *Readers' Ink* was devoted to the significance of the Week. All the public schools observed the Week, and book clubs were organized in the upper grades of several to carry on the work all thru the year. Hugh Lofting lectured at the library under the auspices of the library staff in the interest of the children's library of the Riley Memorial Hospital, and one exhibit was of a case filled with the collection of picture and toy books given by Frederic G. Melcher to this library. At seven moving picture theatres book films were shown under the direction of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays. The staff was kept busy with lectures at parent-teacher meetings.

*Jacksonville, Fla.* Articles on children's literature and lists of good books for children appeared in the local newspaper. Posters designed by school children were displayed in down town stores. Many good designs of book plates were brought to the library, and a special exhibit of a private collection of book plates was made. On the closing day of the Week the Children's Room was transformed into a miniature Japan with decorations loaned by the mother of one of the library trustees, and the story teller in costume told Japanese stories. Slides were used in the moving picture houses, and the librarian gave talks to the Better Films Committee and to women's organizations.

*Kansas City, Mo.* Exhibits were placed in the window of one of the large banks situated on a prominent corner, and in all the thirteen branches. Books for exhibits were borrowed from book stores. One dealer announced that he would stock no books not approved by the head of the children's department. Talks were made before parent-teacher associations.

*Knoxville, Tenn.* Every child in the city was invited to cast his vote for his favorite book at the Lawson McGhee Library. Two Girl Scouts assisted in taking the votes. The circulation for the week showed an increase of one hundred per cent over that of previous weeks.

*Manchester, N. H.* The Jessie Willcox Smith posters were distributed to churches and schools. Notices were printed in the church calendars. A child's model library was exhibited in the de-

livery hall. The children of the three library reading clubs presented a pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty" before an enthusiastic audience of parents and children. An illustration-contest was held.

*Louisville, Ky.* The card edition of the book poster was sent to the country schools with the message on them written by hand. All the schools in Louisville have organized book clubs. Two plays were given for the children at the main library by the Dramatic Art department of the Louisville Conservatory of Music. "Having had on our programs in past years all the Louisville authors, everybody interested in child psychology, all of the best story-tellers and a pageant costing about one thousand dollars we decided not to feature Children's Book Week this year in a way to appeal to adults." (Bernice W. Bell, head of the Children's Department). The library could have disposed of many more of the Smith posters to schools, many of which would have been glad to pay for them.

*Milwaukee, Wis.* The most attractive and popular feature was the Book Pageant, in which characters from children's books were represented by school children. The newspapers were unusually liberal with space.

*Pittsburgh, Pa.* Hugh Lofting told stories to nearly seven hundred children in the lecture hall of the Carnegie Institute November 5, and later talked over the radio from station KDKA. Exhibits, book talks and distribution of publicity material on a large scale made up a celebration on the same lines as that of last year. The main library exhibit will be kept open for a month and a similar one will be placed at the annual district meeting of Girl Scouts.

*Portland, Ore.* Many children brought to the central library books used by their parents and grandparents during their childhood. The boys of the manual training classes made book cases which were exhibited at the branches nearest the school, the librarian filling them with good books for boys. In South Portland, a foreign district, a grocer gave the use of one of his large show windows for the exhibition of a children's library in miniature. Moving picture houses ran slides "Have You Read — ?"

*Providence, R. I.* The main exhibit was placed in a small room adjoining the Children's Room and the Standard Library. The *Providence Journal* ran feature articles in two Sunday issues. The Supervisor of Young People's Reading presented the subject of modern imaginative literature for children before the guests of the Booke Shop.

*Richmond, Va.* A book reception attended by the Governor of the state and prominent Virginia writers was given on the evening of November 13. Three prizes of books were awarded to winners in a contest open to members of the library on "What the Tabb Library Has Meant to Me."

*Sacramento, Cal.* A parade of "the best sellers of our childhood" was a feature of the Tuesday luncheon program of the local Ad Club. Twelve girls from the state, county, and city libraries were dressed to represent popular children's books. On Friday evening the largest grammar school put on a book pageant in which three hundred children took part.

*St. Louis, Mo.* Hugh Lofting read to children in the auditorium of a local business house, and an exhibition of his original drawings for "The Story of Dr. Dolittle" was held in the art room of the central library. In Carondelet and Soular branches the mothers of the immediate neighborhood were entertained. Moving pictures were shown at two branches and at the central children's room by courtesy of the Fox Film Corporation. An exhibit was also placed at Cleveland High School for the Week.

*Seattle, Wash.* Greater general interest in the Week than ever before was manifested. The usual activities were carried on thru a local committee composed of representatives from the schools, parent-teacher associations, Boy-Scouts, Campfire Girls, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. One bookstore offered fifty dollars' worth of books as prizes for essays on "The Book I Liked Best This Year."

*Tacoma, Wash.* The eighth grade book review contests were repeated. Twenty-three schools were represented at the final contests. The ten book prizes were bought with money given by the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, and the Motion Picture Owners and Managers Association, as were the prizes awarded to boys who made book racks in contests conducted by the manual training departments of the public schools for boys in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The Tacoma Drama League gave two free performances for the children. Three of the bookstores purchased fifteen thousand copies of the A. L. A. list for distribution. Three hundred fathers and sons attended a Rotary Club luncheon at which the program was devoted to boys' reading.

*Washington, D. C.* Two exhibit rooms permanently set up with books for children from the smallest thru the high school age and a collection of examples of the work of illustrators for children enable the library to maintain the spirit of the Week thru the year.

## A. L. A. National Union Serials List Assured

THE A. L. A. Committee on the National Union List of Serials is glad to announce that the project seems about to be realized.

The H. W. Wilson Company will edit and publish the list on a cost basis, under the direction of the Committee.

It is estimated that the cost will be about \$36,000 and this amount has been underwritten by subscriptions amounting to \$300 a year for three years from forty libraries.

With but few exceptions all the large libraries of the country will co-operate. An effort will be made to include the holdings of such libraries, covering special fields, as have important serial publications.

The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial has granted to the A. L. A. an appropriation of \$10,000 to meet the expense incident to checking the government libraries in Washington.

The plan of publication provides for the issue in monthly parts of a preliminary edition containing such titles as can readily be assembled from existing union lists. Two copies will be sent to each subscriber for checking. Each library will be expected to note on one of the copies the extent of its holdings of the titles listed and to add such other titles as may be in the collections.

The information contained in these checked copies will be combined and edited. It is expected that this will require about two years. As the work proceeds, proof editions of completed sections of the list will be issued, containing complete bibliographical data regarding the serials included and a record of the libraries in which they are.

It is planned to exclude from the list administrative serials issued by governmental agencies, universities and corporations; and to include those of a scientific character.

With a few exceptions, notably certain French and German publications of the first twenty years of the 19th century, newspapers issued after 1800 will not be listed.

In the case of popular periodicals, which are doubtless in all the libraries co-operating, no specific designation of location will be necessary.

Subscribing libraries are requested to send to the Committee at once a list of libraries in their sections containing important serials which should be included in the list.

The smaller libraries which have been unable to undertake underwriting subscriptions are now invited to subscribe for single copies at the rate

of \$50 each. Such subscriptions should be sent to the H. W. Wilson Company.

JAMES THAYER GEROULD,

*For the Committee.*

*Princeton University Library.*

## The Mid-Winter Meetings

THE mid-winter meetings of the A. L. A. and other organizations will be held in Chicago, with headquarters at the Hotel Sherman, from December 31 to January 2. The temporary training board and some committees will hold meetings also on December 29 and January 3 and 4.

The A. L. A. Council will have three open meetings. At the first, January 1, 2:30 o'clock, the proposal for biennial conferences of the A. L. A.; and library training will be discussed. At the second, January 2, 10 o'clock, James I. Wyer will present the subject of the proposed federal bureau of libraries, and Samuel H. Ranck that of adequate incomes for college, university and school libraries. At the third a study of library personnel will be presented by Florence Overton, representing the committee to co-operate with the Institute for Government Research, and Frank K. Walter will lead the discussion of Certification.

The annual business meeting of the League of Library Commissions will be on January 1, at 10 o'clock.

Normal School Librarians have scheduled for their evening meeting on January 1, educational books of the season; the teacher-librarian; what the "measuring stick" is doing for normal schools, and other topics.

The University Librarians' two-session program (December 31 at 2:30 and January 1 at 10) includes: Can we arrive at a standard by adopting the basis suggested by the A. L. A. Committee on Library Revenue? Is it advisable for a university library to change from any other classification to the Library of Congress classification; and cognate topics?

Middle-West college librarians have included in their tentative program rental collections for reserved reading; staff meetings; devices for introducing new books to students; conventions—does the institution pay the librarians' expenses?; functions of the library committee; and special collections.

The A. L. A. Committee on Education will consider the "Objectives" stated in the committee's report in the 1922 *proceedings*.

The Bibliographical Society's meeting will be on January 1 at eight o'clock.

Rooms at the Hotel Sherman, corner of Randolph and Clark streets are from \$2.50 to \$5 a day.

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

DECEMBER 15, 1923



PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, in his clear, condensed and comprehensive message, gives his approval of a proposal for a Department of Education with a seat in the Cabinet. The topic was already bulletined for discussion at the midwinter Council meeting at Chicago and the A. L. A. should make sure that ample provision is made in the measure for that important part of education work which is done thru our library system. The Council will also discuss the important questions of library training agencies and the Williamson report, certification, library personnel, library incomes and other topics which we have always with us, as well as the change to a biennial conference which has so often been proposed. A suggestion is also likely to be brought forward for financial co-operation from the A. L. A. or its members in the rebuilding of the Louvain University Library as a memorial of war service. The associated meetings of the League of Library Commissions, university and college librarians and others will doubtless bring together at the Sherman Hotel the usual excellent attendance.

AT the eleventh annual meeting of the Eastern College Librarians, after discussion of the correlated subject of rather unrelated courses in bibliography, considerable attention was given to the Williamson report, tho without much new light upon it. While university librarians approved in theory Dr. Williamson's suggestion that library schools may properly be part of a university system, two difficulties were emphasized—that the librarian could not give adequate attention to teaching without curtailment of his administrative duties, and that it would be difficult to detach members of the teaching staff or obtain specialists for the purpose. Dr. Williamson's emphasis on the desirability of connecting library schools with universities should not obscure the fact that some of the schools which have produced the best results are not so connected. Of the pioneer schools, what is known as the Albany school was separated after two years from Columbia University, and the Pratt Institute School

is connected with an institute of technology rather than a university. The School of the New York Public Library also has done splendid work, as has been true of the other two schools endowed by Mr. Carnegie, those at Pittsburgh and Atlanta, which also lack college relations. Of the three California schools, Los Angeles and Riverside are quite independent of colleges, while the removal of the Sacramento School to the University at Berkeley has undoubtedly been of value. The universities have peculiar advantages for the development of professional schools, but, after all, the test for a library school is the association with a working library, whether within a university or in the more varied practical experience of a public library. Both have their value, but natural development, as Dr. Williamson points out, is likely to be in the direction of library schools in connection with universities.

CHINA, as the oldest of nations, has always built upon education, as China understood it, and the new China which is developing, despite palace revolutions and bandit outlawry, will be based on the new education which it is adopting from western countries. American foundations are doing much in several fields to make this possible, as illustrated by Peking University and Yale in China and the great Rockefeller medical development. But in no field is there more encouraging promise than in that of public libraries. At the Boone University Library at Wuchang, with its Carnegie building and with the experience and executive ability of Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood as its head, a splendid beginning has been made and several Chinese librarians have already been educated in American library schools. America led in relieving China from the Boxer indemnity, of which half the portion allotted to the United States has already been utilized in sending Chinese students to this country. As to the other half, amounting to eleven million dollars, no disposition has been made. It is simply a debt from China which the United States intends to remit, but it is practically assured that any Chinese



government will be prepared to follow precedent in utilizing the equivalent of this remission for educational purposes. Miss Wood has been working out in China a plan for the utilization of such fund in part for the development of a public library system thruout the country, in which she has had the support of the most distinguished Chinese leaders. She is now in this country consulting with Chinese representatives and American leaders to the same end, and it is to be hoped that a practical plan will result in obtaining ultimately something like several million dollars out of this fund for such development. There could scarcely be better use of money when the Chinese government finds the money to use.

**I**N many a library, and not least in the library systems of the metropolis, there has been a lamentable falling off in the circulation of children's books for the simple reason that inadequate book appropriations have cut off the supply. It is noteworthy that the need is largely for replacement of worn-out books which have been used by foreign children, avid for books in English as part of their American education. New books are also lacking, but it is chiefly the child of American parents who is so imbued with the spirit of novelty as to demand new books and be discontented with the old. The demand is one of the most legitimate in library circulation, and appropriation authorities should see to it that the need is liberally supplied.

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## LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

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### BOSTON SPECIAL LIBRARIANS

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of important greater Boston agencies engaged in collecting and distributing specialized information were invited to speak at a meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, held on November 26th in the rooms of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts. Mr. Briggs announced that the education committee will offer a general course in special library training, to begin early in January.

O. L. Stone, general manager of the Associated Industries, told his organization's aims to found an "industrial center" with departments of direct service in all phases of industrial information.

Robert Kelso described his work in the Boston Council of Social Agencies, a "functional federation" with aim to prevent duplication and waste of effort. He announced the imminent publication of the seventh edition of the Social Service Directory, a welcome announcement in that the last edition is now nearly ten years old.

Mr. Taylor followed with a word about the Boston Legal Aid Society and its aid to the poor in such matters as wage claims, tenantry problems, workmen's compensation, fraud, protection of women and children. A small retainer fee is charged, but this is always adjusted to the client's circumstances. The Society stands ready to give any legal information "within courtesy"—(this statement in answer to a question as to whether librarians might be classed among "the poor"!).

The Prospect Union Educational Exchange was represented by its director, Charles A. Gates, who emphasized the change from the

older Union which was in itself a *school* for working men, to the present status as an *informational* agency ready to give facts about all classes, schools, and courses of good standing in greater Boston. The first Prospect Union Catalog lists in its 85 pages 1,159 courses classed by subject. Mr. Hawkes, librarian of Sampson and Murdock, directory publishers, said that his collection of some 1,500 directories of United States and Canada was available for consultation, either free of charge for a few details, or with a minor charge for list compilation.

Olive Jacques, secretary of the Boston branch of the Travelers' Aid Society, told of her work at the stations and docks in giving hospitality, reassurance, and protection. Record is kept of the thousands of questions asked daily. About 30,000 people were aided last year. Clifford K. Brown told of the responsible work of the Y. M. C. A. with its 3,000 students enrolled in classes, and the 20,000 students living in the "Y" area. Miss Howlett and Miss Wessman explained the work of the information and personal service bureaus of R. H. White's and Filent's department stores. Miss Gibbs called to mind the ever increasing informational service of the Tel-U-Where Company. E. L. Green, of the Boston Better Business Commission, a state corporation and a branch of a larger national organization, described his work in protecting the public from fraud—preventing misrepresentation in merchandise advertising and exposing fake speculative ventures. He mentioned the change in trade name from "Hudson seal" to the correct "Dyed muskrat" as an illustration of their endeavor.

RUTH M. LANE, *Secretary.*



## EASTERN COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

THE eleventh annual conference of Eastern College Librarians was held at Columbia University Saturday, December 1. President Frederick C. Hicks and James T. Gerould presided at the morning session and June E. Donnelly in the afternoon. For the benefit of distant librarians who were unable to be present and desired as complete reports as possible, for the first time a complete stenographic report was made.

"Teaching Bibliography to College Students," the first topic on the program, was discussed by Captain Elbridge Colby, U. S. A., former instructor in the English department of the University of Minnesota. Captain Colby said that in his work in the department he had been impressed by the students' lack of information concerning bibliography and by the disorganized scribbling which they called note-taking. Long papers and term essays and reports also showed the lack of any intelligent bibliographical method. With the help of Mr. Gilchrist of the university library he outlined a year's course in three parts, one for each quarter of the college year, the first on note-taking and bibliography, the second on book publication and distribution. These were for freshmen, while the third in advanced bibliography was designed for graduate students who had no previous bibliographical training and for advanced undergraduates. Problems assigned should be connected with work in which the student is already interested. None of these courses was actually given, as Captain Colby and Mr. Gilchrist were called away to army service before all their plans were perfected.

Dr. Hicks said that about sixty law schools are now giving instruction in legal bibliography. The course at the Columbia Law School, covering thirty periods each year, is not required and carries no credit for work done, but usually enrolls from 150 to 200 students from the 700 in the school.

The topic was touched upon again in the afternoon session.

Mr. Austen of Cornell said that three courses are given there, which are not required but for two of which credit is given. One-half year is given to a survey of world literature with some discussion of classification and bibliography; the second half to a survey of writing and printing and book-making of the world. The third course is designed to give graduate students some insight into bibliography. The courses are given in lectures with exercises in the first half of the year to fix in mind bibliographical forms and subjects, and a notebook is required. Mr. Keogh said that he had some time since discon-

tinued his talks to freshmen at Yale, and that his work is now chiefly a non-required course for graduate students, the content of which varies with the students who come.

Discussion of the Williamson report on training for library service centered around the distinction between professional and non-professional library workers. Miss Donnelly said that little progress could be made until librarians realize that there are non-professionals engaged in library work. Dr. Williamson's real problem in working out his report, it seemed to Miss Donnelly, was to differentiate the middle ground, the place where professional and non-professional came together, and this he had not done. The question of exact definition is begged by his saying that professional work is that done by a college graduate or one with library training. The statement is not supported with evidence.

Dr. Root said that much confusion had been caused by assuming that the report was a report on library schools. The Williamson report is on training for library service, and what Dr. Williamson has done from the beginning is to set up a standard of his own and to study library schools to see whether they come up to this standard.

Miss Mudge made a tentative definition of a clerical position as one in which the satisfactory performance of the work of that position depends on the knowledge of processes carried on under definition laid down by the person supervising the work.

Miss Rathbone said that one of the chief difficulties of the report from the library school point of view is that Dr. Williamson makes his two categories on the assumption that there are two entirely different types of people whereas in fact it is one and the same person. It is possible to have differentiation in large libraries, but workers in small libraries do both kinds of work and library schools, which train for small libraries as well as large, must recognize that fact.

Dr. Hicks read a letter from Sydney Mitchell of the Department of Library Science of the University of California, in which he said that for three years there had been in effect in the library a separation of the staff into professional and clerical groups, college graduation plus library school training or its equivalent being required of all in the former group.

Mr. Gerould said that in every library there are tasks which are not different from similar tasks in business, and that librarians should get that work done in the most efficient way at the lowest cost. Any attempt to elevate the clerical group to professional standing is likely

to put a drag on those assistants who are of professional grade. Mr. Currier stated that the clerical staff is a separate body at Harvard under the direction of a specially appointed officer.

Dr. Williamson said that more kind things had been said of the report than he had anticipated. Three years had passed since he wrote the report, and he would not undertake to answer any criticism to one who had read it in the past three months. The Carnegie Corporation wished for a short historical treatment designed primarily to make librarians and library schools think, and as one of the speakers said that it had, perhaps it is accomplishing the purpose for which it was intended.

James I. Wyer, chairman of the Committee on Degrees of the American Association of Library Schools, reported that it may be said that there is a uniformity of degrees in the library schools. The committee has submitted to the Committee on Academic Degrees of the Association of American Universities the substance of the report made at this meeting, requesting its attention and comment as to whether the degree practice suggested would meet with the approval of that committee and association. This report reaffirms paragraphs two and three of the report presented in 1919 by the Committee on Library School Degrees to the A. A. L. S. These recommended that the conferring of any other distinctly professional first degree [than B. L. S.] as e.g., Bachelor of Library Economy, either for the completion of one year or two years of professional and technical study, be not approved; and that the conferring of A. B. or B. S., with or without the addition of "in Library Science," on the completion of one year of professional and technical study when that year forms one year of a four year college course, or one year of such study in addition to four years of undergraduate college work, be approved.

The committee was divided on the first paragraph, which recommended "That the degree Bachelor of Library Science be recognized as the professional first degree to be conferred only on the completion of two years professional and technical study for admission to which course of study the completion of a four year course of study in the liberal arts and science is required. Further, as soon as the character of work done in library schools which are on a graduate basis, meets the requirements usually set for graduate work leading to a master's degree, that the degree conferred by such library schools should be Master of Library Science." The paragraph is to stand as the pronouncement of the Association altho without

change or reaffirmation at this time. It seemed to two members of the committee that while the character of the work done in library schools which are on a graduate basis has not greatly changed in four years, the quality of the work for which an increasing number of masters' degrees is being conferred is no nearer research and in quantity is far less than is now required for the professional library degree of B. L. S. In journalism, in education, in business administration, the master's degree is bestowed by members of the Association of American Universities for one year of graduate work.

The report noted the status of all degrees now conferred by those eight of the thirteen member schools which give degrees at all.

Six of these schools, Western Reserve, Wisconsin, Washington, Simmons, Syracuse and Pittsburgh have an arrangement with the colleges with which they are connected (in the case of Pittsburgh the arrangement is with three colleges, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh) whereby these colleges credit towards a baccalaureate degree varying amounts of work done in the library schools. The College for Women of Western Reserve University credits a year in the library school as one full year towards the degree of B. S. The University of Wisconsin allows twenty credits out of one hundred and twenty required for graduation to the full year's work in the library school. Simmons College confers the degree of B. S. on students who finish the four-year program for undergraduates, including in this work in library science aggregating about one year. It gives the same degree to those college graduates who complete a program of technical library instruction covering one year. The University of Washington offers to graduate students B. S. in Library Science for one year of work in the library school. Syracuse University offers B. S. in Library Science for two years' undergraduate work in the library school when added to two years in the Syracuse University College of Liberal Arts.

Professional library degrees are granted by two library schools. Illinois and New York State offer B. L. S. for two years of graduate work in the library school. So far as the committee can learn neither this degree nor any other professional library degree is conferred or offered by any other library school, college or university.

Dr. Root, speaking on library correspondence schools, said that an important field of service of such schools is in enabling those who cannot get into library schools to pursue advanced study. Instruction must be of the best

quality and prepared by people of unusual ability.

Miss Mudge gave an interesting account of her experience in tracing the local coloring in the works of George Eliot, in treating the topic "Research in American Libraries." The investigation took her and Miss Sears to England, and involved correspondence with and in some instances visits to Italian, French and German libraries. Correspondence with American libraries of all types brought little information and Miss Mudge suggested as a means of making American libraries more easily available the extension of the plan now employed by the Library of Congress to have their respective depository catalogs expanded into union lists of unusual books.

The report of the A. L. A. Committee on a union list of serials appears elsewhere in this number.

The need of a standard book of building plans for public and college library buildings was discussed. Charles H. Brown of the Iowa State College Library wrote that he had great difficulty in obtaining any information on uniform practices either from the A. L. A. or elsewhere when planning the new building there. Certain standards cannot be fixed for college library buildings, but there are certain averages which can be used for standards as for instance seating capacity of the reserve and reading room in proportion to the main reading room and to the students in college. Mr. Wyer said that he had made from time to time reports of college library buildings in New York and in one or two adjacent states, and constantly loaned the typed reports to other college libraries, with the permission of the colleges surveyed, because of the lack of any standard book on the subject.

Dr. Hicks described the activities of the Columbia Library Law Library Association, organized with the idea of having the law students co-operate with the administration of the library in as many phases as possible, and to prevent the theft and mutilation of books. Canons of law library ethics were drawn up and printed on cards which bore on the other side a blank schedule of the law school course, insuring a convenient form which would be kept. The association has also established a fund for purchasing textbooks for students who cannot buy their own.

#### VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE annual meeting of the Virginia Library Association was held in Richmond on November 27th and 28th, and contributed greatly to the educational conference held during each Thanksgiving week in Richmond, at which all the educational forces combine in one great

demonstration for the betterment of life in the State. The delegates to this annual conference number about 4,000, and the Library Association hopes within a very few years to be counted as one of the strongest units in the conference.

The first session was devoted to reports from ten new libraries, thru which the Association caught its first heartening glimpse of the rapid progress which will attend the establishment of libraries in Virginia in the future. Several of these were, however, new only in the sense that new buildings had been erected and that such a thoro reorganization had taken place that in each case the library could be considered as just starting upon its career.

The rest of the session was given to the discussion of school libraries by two speakers connected with the school system. Lucy Saunders, supervisor of elementary grades of the Norfolk public schools, paid grateful tribute to the co-operation and help the schools in her city had received from the Norfolk Public Library, and stressed the fact that the schools would be forced to depend more and more upon public libraries as the methods used continued to call for larger and better book service. Charles W. Dickinson, supervisor of school libraries for the state board of education, outlined briefly the new plan of purchasing libraries with state aid.

At the second session Grace Arents, of Richmond, told briefly of the founding of the Grace Arents Free Library, which has functioned thru her sole support as the only public library in Richmond for many years. The night session was well attended by the public, attracted by two well known speakers, Dr. Joseph B. Dunn, of Richmond, and Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, of St. Louis. Dr. Dunn has for many years been interested in tracing to their origin Mother Goose rhymes, words which form our conversation today, and the slight social customs which are instinctive from long usage. Dr. Bostwick came to Richmond to give the helping hand for which he is noted, and his address before the Association on "the library in the municipality" presented the present status of the public library and its place in the life of a community, in a clear-cut form which was of the greatest value to those present.

A round table on work with children was led by Pearl Hinesley, librarian of the Roanoke Public Library. C. Vernon Eddy, librarian of the Handley Library at Winchester, related some of his adventures in collecting Virginiana for his library.

After luncheon, the visiting librarians and delegates were taken upon a sight-seeing ride as the guests of the Richmond librarians.

Officers for the coming year are: Presi-

dent, C. Vernon Eddy, Winchester; First Vice-President, J. Maud Campbell, Memorial Library, Lynchburg; Second Vice-President, C. O. Vandevanter, Trustee of the Balch Memorial Library, Leesburg; secretary-treasurer, Margaret V. Jones, Library Organizer, Virginia State Library.

#### NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**T**HE special fall meeting of the New Jersey Library Association was held in Jersey City on November 20th with an attendance of 170. There were three outstanding features of the meeting: a remarkable message from the Mayor of Jersey City, a detailed discussion of library publicity, and a bus tour of the Jersey City library system. The Association never had more generous hosts.

Mayor Frank Hague in his address professed a deep interest in public libraries and in maintaining them adequately. "A proper system cannot be maintained if the workers are starved, nor if the Library Board is anything but a liberal one. Jersey City has such a Library Board. . . . These men are not at my command; I am at theirs. They know the library needs of Jersey City and as I know the importance of public libraries the city is going to stand behind these men in developing the library system of Jersey City until our city leads New Jersey in public library facilities." The Bergen Branch building was opened only a year ago and yet there is another similar branch now nearing completion and two more definitely planned for. In addition the main library building is to be enlarged, the purchase of property having already begun.

Announcement was made of the appointment of a legislative committee to represent the Association and all libraries of the state in matters of state legislation affecting library welfare. The seven members appointed were library trustees representing all sizes of libraries of the state.

Elsie M. Rushmore of the J. Walter Thompson Co., New York advertisers, and formerly of the Russell Sage Foundation Library, presented the advertiser's view of library publicity. The advertiser would consider his product, compare them with other products, and see that they make an attractive "package" to represent. After considering the product and ways of presenting it he would study the market. He would next take into account the money available and finally determine on methods to be employed. Perhaps the greatest mistake librarians make is to consider methods first, or perhaps methods only. With consideration first of market and money methods usually determine themselves.

It is also futile if not fatal to advertise anything a library cannot satisfactorily supply after the demand is created. The object of advertising is to sell the product, whereas that of publicity is to enhance the reputation of the product. The function of a library is to supply readers with the type of thing they want (not what librarians think they should want) and the library's publicity should herefore convince people that the library does have what they want.

Forrest B. Spaulding of Gaylord Brothers emphasized the librarian's having and working a definite plan and a thoro-going one. A library employing at one time many old familiar methods of publicity is sure to get much better results than a library employing one or two novel methods or only a few of the familiar ones. Library publicity usually errs in being not sufficiently inclusive. It reaches at only one or two classes in the community, usually the so-called working class. Library publicity should reach every caste, including by all means those people who own books and libraries themselves because these people have the proper appreciation and influence to help the library obtain a larger appropriation.

Brief talks on specific phases of the publicity problem were made by Bessie H. Newkirk of Camden, Edith H. Crowell of Perth Amboy, Agnes Miller of Princeton, who pointed out that group reading is a powerful influence in shaping the lives of young people, which makes publicity thru work with clubs especially important; Leah E. Ketchum, reference librarian of the Trenton Public Library; and Roberta M. Doxsee of Bound Brook, who told of efforts being made in her community to make known the library's service in anticipation of a campaign for a library building.

An exhibition of publicity material was held in connection with the morning session. In place of the usual afternoon session a tour was made of the various buildings of the Jersey City library system with Librarian Edmund W. Miller personally conducting. The tour served to reveal what is probably the fastest growing library system in New Jersey. The Free Public Library of Jersey City was opened to the public in July, 1891, in rented rooms. The present library building was completed in 1901. The system now contains about 250,000 volumes, of which nearly 200,000 are in the main library. The circulation in 1922 was 1,251,214, and the number of persons using the reading and reference rooms of the main library and branches was 498,841. The library has four branches and three high school branches, fifteen delivery stations and several deposit collections.

HAROLD F. BRICHAM, *Secretary.*



(a) Shows the position of a book as it stands on present and past book shelves. Note that it is open, that pages are exposed to dust and to fire, that the weight of the leaves pulls on the binding until they rest upon the shelf. Thus it goes to the patron in a weakened condition and, of course, is not made stronger in use.



(a)

(b) Shows the position and condition of a book when stored or handled on the Hine System of shelving which is the only system of library shelving ever produced that keeps books closed when on the shelves, and which, at the same time, protects the book-binding and renders the books much easier of access.



(b)

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## KENTUCKY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE 1923 meeting of the Kentucky Library Association was held November 23-24, at Covington, with the President, Mrs. A. S. Gardner, in the chair. All sessions were very well attended.

Round tables were conducted by Fannie C. Rawson, Estelle Reid and Florence Dillard. The discussion of problems of the small library and college library was followed by two interesting addresses: "The Library as a Local History Center," by Mrs. Charles F. Norton, librarian, Transylvania College; and "Archaeological Research in Kentucky," by Dr. W. D. Funkhouser, University of Kentucky.

The evening program was delightful, consisting of the president's address and a most able discussion of contemporary drama by Dr. F. W. Chandler, University of Cincinnati.

The business of the Association was transacted Saturday morning. This was followed by a round table on children's work conducted by Bernice W. Bell, Louisville Public Library. Miss Bell laid stress on a high idea of the children's librarian, whose duty it is to co-operate with the public school teachers in creating in the children a taste for better books.

The subject of the last program was "Books of the Year," and comprised the best of biography and travel, books for college libraries, new poetry, and new fiction.

The officers for 1924 are: President, Jennie Flexner, Louisville; first vice-president, Mrs. Anne M. Spears, Covington; second vice-president, Mrs. T. D. Arnold, Middlesboro; secretary-treasurer, Grace Snodgrass, Lexington.

## MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE Missouri Library Association held its twenty-third annual meeting in Hannibal, October 18-20.

As Hannibal was the boyhood home of Mark Twain and the scene of Tom Sawyer's adventures, it was fitting that the first evening be given up to reminiscences of the city's most famous son and that pilgrimages be made to his old home and to the cave where Becky and Tom were lost. Like them, by the aid of a tiny candle the party "wound this way and that, far down into the secret depths of the cave," but unlike those adventurers, were conducted safely back to daylight.

Friday morning's session was taken up largely with a discussion of school libraries and the co-ordination of school and public library work. Sarah Dawson, librarian of the Lamar High School, talked on the conditions prevailing in that library and Elizabeth Sommersby reported for the Stix Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, of which she is librarian and which is

located in one of the new public school buildings. A most interesting paper was read at this session by Margery Doud, librarian, Carondelet Branch, St. Louis, on "Library Celebrities" in which she vividly described some of the eccentrics who frequent libraries and in whom every librarian present could find the likeness of some habitué of her own reading room.

At a banquet to which the public was invited, Arthur E. Bostwick read a most interesting paper on "Some Realists English and American," sketching very cleverly the outstanding figures in modern fiction.

The last morning of the meeting was spent in reviewing some of the recent books. Genevieve Casey, children's librarian, Cabanne Branch, St. Louis, conducted the review of children's books; Margery Doud, poetry, and Harriet B. Sawyer, general literature.

Officers elected: Ward Edwards, State Teachers College, Warrensburg, president; Helen Birch, Hannibal Public Library, vice-president; Harriet M. Horine, Springfield Public Library, treasurer; Jean Cameron, Sedalia Public Library, secretary.

## CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"ART IN THE LIBRARY" was the subject of discussion at the Fall meeting of the First District of the California Library Association, held in Oakland November 17th., under the auspices of President Charles S. Greene and Secretary Lucie C. Nye.

Moving pictures of the H. A. Snow African Expedition were shown at the Museum, Mr. Snow himself contributing explanations and reminiscences and later exhibiting his trophies. Calthea Vivian, gave a brief talk on modern art supplemented by bibliographies of use to all librarians. This was followed by a round table on the circulation of art books and pictures in the library, led by Florence Browne, formerly of the Oakland Free Library, who opened the discussion by describing the art collection of that library, numbering more than 70,000 pieces and including mounted pictures, clippings, stereographs, postal cards and posters. The meeting closed with music and enthusiastic reports from the various libraries of the District.

HAZEL G. GIBSON, *Secretary, C. L. A.*

As we go to press comes word that Yale will erect a \$4,000,000 general library building immediately from the John W. Sterling bequest of \$15,000,000. The site is announced as the two blocks bounded by Grove, High, Elm and York Streets. The buildings are being designed by James Gamble Rogers of New York City, who drew the plans for the Harkness memorial dormitory group.

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## CURRENT LITERATURE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Documents Relating to the Erection of Wayne County and Michigan Territory," forming numbers one and two of the Historical Publications of Wayne County, Michigan, has been prepared for publication by the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

"British and American Longer Plays, 1900-23," compiled by Michael J. Conroy, of the Reference Department of the Boston Public Library, and printed in the *Quarterly Bulletin* of January-March, 1923, has now been reprinted with additions, and forms Number 26 in the valuable Brief Reading List series published by that library. (65p. 5c.)

*Ohio Libraries*, volume 1, no. 1, dated October 1923, and printed, succeeds the mimeographed *Ohio Libraries*, nos. 1, 2 and 3, and, like the first series, is to be issued occasionally by the Ohio State Library. This number chronicles happenings about the state since the May district meetings and concisely records in its four pages more activities than one would expect to find in such small space.

The 1923-24 edition of the "Libraries Museums and Art Galleries Year Book," edited and published by Alexander J. Philip, Gravesend, England, is designed on a more extensive scale than any previous edition. In addition to the list of institutions, statistics of income, stock and use of public libraries are given, and there are two select mailing lists of libraries according to their book purchasing power. (225p. £1 5s.)

A "Bibliography of Museums and Museology," compiled by William Clifford, librarian of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is a tentative list divided into sections on organization, administration, arrangement, scope and functions of museums, museum construction, special museums, periodicals. The compilation and arrangement were done in the Library of the Museum under the direction of Helen J. Baker, head of the Cataloging Department. (New York: The Museum. 98p.)

The "Report on Designated Depository Libraries . . . under the Selective Plan First Authorized by Public Act 171, 67th Congress," presented by Mary A. Hartwell, cataloger in the office of Superintendent of Documents, partly to the Public Documents Round Table of the A. L. A. and partly to the National Association of State Libraries, and printed in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* for June 1 and July, 1923, is now re-

published with the addition of two outline maps showing designated depository libraries with the relative number of publications received under the selective plan and the ratio between number of libraries and population of each state, and the kinds of libraries designated as depositories. (Washington: Government Printing Office. Limited edition.)

If sufficient promises of subscription are obtained, it is proposed to issue early in 1924 a complete catalog of the books in the Printed Library of the British Foreign Office as of 1923. This Library contains about 30,000 specialized works, British and foreign, on diplomacy, diplomatic history and relations, international law, and cognate subjects which come within the scope of the work of the Foreign Office. The majority of the books deal with diplomatic history since 1815; there are, however, many interesting and valuable texts of treaties, accounts of early embassies, intercourse with foreign nations and travels from the fifteenth century onwards. The manuscript archives of the Foreign Office belong to a different section of the Library, and are not included in the catalog. Those wishing to subscribe will communicate with Robert Wilberforce, British Information Library, 44 Whitehall Street, New York. The price before publication is £2, to be raised on publication to £3.

The new edition of the "Index to Short Stories," compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins, reference librarian of University of Minnesota, contains the names of 88 American and English authors not appearing in the first edition (1917) and of 91 foreign authors not previously represented. The total number of stories now indexed is 17,288. These have been written by 808 authors, of which 327 are foreign authors, whose works have been translated into English. "The rule has been to include the work of no American or English author unless he has had published by a reputable concern at least one volume of collected stories. . . . No effort has been made to recover obscure or fugitive stories. . . . To discriminate the short story from longer works of fiction the arbitrary limit of 200 pages was adopted. . . ." In addition to the main index by author and title, there are appendices giving titles of books indexed and the names of authors classified by nationality. (H. W. Wilson Co. 537p. \$12. Service basis to smaller libraries.)



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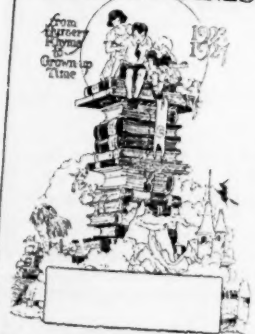
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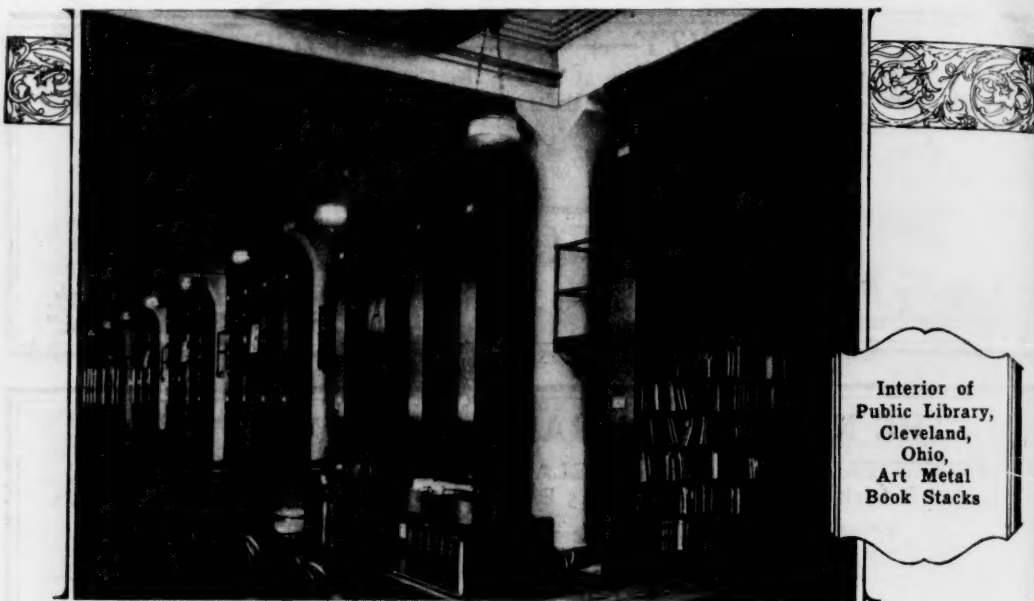
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